

ROUTING

Top Secret

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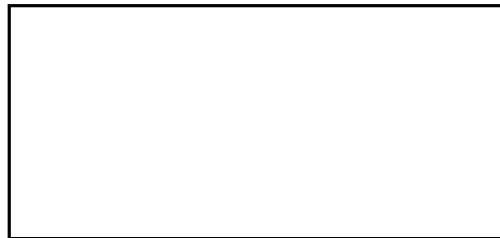
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State Dept. review completed

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COPY NO.

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
28 January 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Intelligence)
SUBJECT: Afro-Asian Conference Developments

Official invitations to the Afro-Asian conference have been issued and scattered reports continue to suggest that most of the invitees are inclined to accept.

Ethiopia probably will attend and may be represented by its prime minister. According to the American embassy in Addis Ababa, however, the neutralist Ethiopian ambassador in New Delhi is expected to insist that he be included in the delegation.

The Japanese are clearly eager to attend. Upon receipt of its invitation, the Japanese government indicated that acceptance or rejection was a matter of decision for the regime that will be established after the forthcoming election. The government's statement went on to say, however, that "it is the intention of the present cabinet to make such preparations as will enable Japan to participate." Foreign Minister Shigemitsu, in a recent Diet speech, cited the conference as evidence of Asia's new influence in world affairs.

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The Philippines is veering toward acceptance, with Carlos Romulo the leading candidate to head the Filipino delegation.

A pro-Communist newspaper in Djakarta reports that Ho Chi Minh himself will head the Viet Minh delegation. This is the first inkling of North Vietnam's plans regarding the conference.

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| Date: | 28 July 78 |

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Turkey remains skeptical and aloof

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Australia, not on the invitation list, is reported by the French ambassador in Canberra to be extremely suspicious of the meeting. He asserted the Australians are particularly worried that the meeting will degenerate into a purely anti-colonial rally, give impetus to the Indonesian claim to New Guinea, and provide the Chinese Communists a chance to fish in troubled waters.

Communist and neutralist circles continue to criticize the US with regard to the conference. The Indian Communist press and the opposition press in Syria have recently played on the theme that the US and its allies are out to sabotage the meeting. In Saigon a high-ranking Indian truce official stated, in open conversation, that he was convinced that the countries "under US influence" would refuse to participate in the conference. He reasoned that the US feared that the conference would result in a regional grouping which would be intended to offset the Manila pact.

HUNTINGTON D. SHELDON
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Current Intelligence